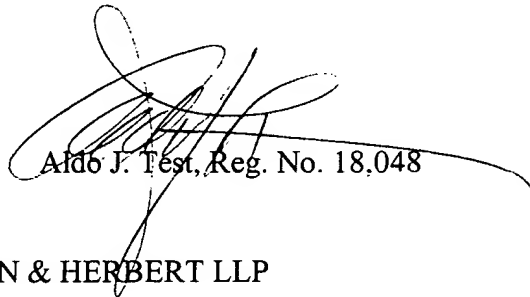


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

If any matters can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Order No. A-70977/AJT).

Respectfully submitted,



Aldo J. Test, Reg. No. 18,048

FLEHR HOHBACH TEST ALBRITTON & HERBERT LLP
4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3400
San Francisco, CA 94111-4187
Telephone: (650) 494-8700
Facsimile: (650) 494-8771

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are listed below, whether amended or not.

11. (Amended) A decorative material, comprising:
two polarizers, wherein each polarizer has a controlled direction of polarization axis; and
at least one phase-shifting plate[s] placed between the polarizers, wherein the phase-shifting plate[s] represents a continuous layer of an optically anisotropic material containing regions differing by value of phase shift and/or direction of fast optical axis.
12. (Unchanged) The decorative material of claim 11, wherein the optically anisotropic material represents a molecularly oriented film deposited onto an optically isotropic base.
13. (Amended) A decorative material, comprising:
two polarizers, wherein each polarizer has a controlled direction of polarization axis, and at least one of the polarizers contains several elements differing by directions of their polarization axes; and
at least one phase-shifting plate[s] placed between the polarizers, wherein the phase-shifting plate[s] represents a continuous layer of a homogeneous optical anisotropic material.
14. (Unchanged) The decorative material of claim 11 or 13, wherein the anisotropic film is placed in a transparent vessel filled with a transparent or weakly colored liquid medium, and the polarizers are placed in the inner surface of the vessel.

15. (Unchanged) The decorative material of claim 11 or 13, wherein the anisotropic film is placed in a transparent vessel filled with a transparent or weakly colored liquid medium, and the polarizers are placed in the outer surface of the vessel.

16. (Unchanged) The decorative material of claim 13, wherein at least one of the polarizers represents a film of molecularly oriented organic substance deposited immediately onto an optically anisotropic material.

17. (Unchanged) The decorative material of claim 13, wherein at least one of the polarizers represents a film of molecularly oriented organic substance deposited onto a transparent sublayer predeposited onto a surface of an anisotropic material.

18. (Amended) The decorative material of claim 16 or 17, wherein the molecularly oriented film represents a layer of an organic substance [comprising] formed from lyotropic liquid crystals.

19. (Amended) The decorative material of claim 16 or 17, wherein the molecularly oriented film represents a layer of an organic substance [comprising] formed from thermotropic liquid crystals having a temperature of transition from solid to LC state above the ambient temperature.

20. (Amended) A decorative material, comprising
a polarizer having a controlled direction of polarization axis;
a reflecting layer; and
at least one phase-shifting plate[s] placed between the polarizer and the reflecting layer, wherein the phase-shifting plate[s] represents a continuous layer of an optically anisotropic material containing regions differing by value of phase shift and/or direction of fast optical axis.